

**SERVICES FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED  
CHILDREN'S VISION SCREENING PROGRAM**

**I. LEGAL AUTHORITY:**

Rhode Island General Law 40-9-18

**II. POLICY STATEMENT AND PURPOSE:**

Rhode Island Department of Human Services, Office of Rehabilitation Services, Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired, in conjunction with Saving Sight Rhode Island and the Rhode Island Lions Sight Foundation, will establish a one year pilot program to screen children's vision for blindness and other visual disorders.

**III. PROCEDURES:**

Utilizing MTI photo-screening devices, Saving Sight Rhode Island will target ten thousand (10,000) three (3) and four (4) year old children throughout the state for vision screening.

School-age children may also be screened if they have been deemed as unscreenable by the local education authority's standard vision screening methods (such as children who are non-verbal.)

This screening will be conducted in child care centers, nursery schools, Head Start, Early Intervention Programs, Child Outreach Programs, private family child care homes, and in community locations for those children not involved in any child care or other formal program.

Parents must complete and sign a Saving Sight Rhode Island Consent form which permits their child(ren) to participate in the screening. The form describes the screening process and collects other information relating to the child.

DHS ORS Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired will reimburse Saving Sight Rhode Island five dollars (\$5.00) for each child screened. Additional expenses will be funded by the Rhode Island Lions Sight Foundation and Saving Sight Rhode Island. ORS/Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired will bill Medicaid/RIte Care for services rendered after July 1, 2001 to those children who are eligible.

Screeners will be fully trained and certified in the use of the photo-screening device by Prevent Blindness America and the Vanderbilt Hospital.

The Vanderbilt Children's Hospital Reading Center will be used for photo interpretation. The parent will be informed whether or not the Vanderbilt screening results indicate that the child has a condition that should be followed up professionally. Vanderbilt Children's Hospital Reading Center will provide reports of examination results to the parent, Saving

Sight, and RI SBVI. If a problem is detected by Vanderbilt, the parent will also be given a list of R.I. optometrists and ophthalmologists who have agreed to participate in the program. Information on obtaining eye examinations free of charge for those without medical coverage will be provided.

If a family is determined needy through an application process by Saving Sight Rhode Island, and eyeglasses are recommended but not covered by medical insurance, they will be provided by the Rhode Island Lions Sight Foundation, Saving Sight Rhode Island, or Vision USA.

Saving Sight Rhode Island will utilize the Vanderbilt Data Base and Tracking System to insure proper reporting and documentation of follow-up and results. A comprehensive report of statistics and results of this one (1) year project will be written at the completion of the state fiscal year in order to determine the effectiveness of the project. This report will be submitted to the Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired vision screening committee for review and future programmatic recommendations.